

NOTE

FIVE NEW COMBINATIONS IN THE GENUS *MORELLA*
(MYRICACEAE) FOR NEOTROPICAL SPECIES

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Major variation within the small family Myricaceae is extensive and these fundamental discontinuities have been pointed out from the earliest days of systematic botany. In spite of the early recognition of the strikingly obvious divisions within this family of perhaps sixty species, the prevailing practice has been to recognize very few genera and throughout most of post-Linnean times not more than the genus *Myrica* itself. A very large percentage of the intrafamilial variation is represented in northeastern North America and wherein a second genus (*Comptonia* L'Hér. ex Aiton) was finally adopted by Fernald (1938: 379, 380, 410, 412, 482; 1950: 525). Gleason (1952: 24) saw fit to include *Comptonia* and *Gale* Duhamel within *Myrica*, although he did provide, perhaps reluctantly and certainly nomenclaturally incorrectly, the alternate names under two additional generic names. Increasingly, within the past three decades or so, the trend has been to accept three genera in addition to the relatively unknown New Caledonian monotypic genus *Canacomyrica* Guillaumin. These genera are *Myrica* L. (Lectotype: *Myrica gale* L.), *Morella* Lour. (Lectotype: *Morella rubra* Lour.), and *Comptonia* [Type: *Comptonia asplenifolia* (L.) L'Hér. ex Aiton; = *Comptonia peregrina* (L.) J. M. Coult.].

All members of the Myricaceae known from Mexico, Central America, South America, and the West Indies bear waxy drupes and hence are species of *Morella*. I have recently examined a very considerable number of collections from Mexico and Central America from 15 herbaria (A, ARIZ, CAS, CONN, DUKE, F, GH, LL, MICH, MO, NY, TEX, UC, US, WIS) and find need for the following combinations in the genus *Morella*. Study of the West Indian representatives has been initiated and has already shown that cer-

tain combinations are needed now. It seems certain that others will also be required, but the necessary Antillean study has not been completed so they will be published later.

The last monographer of the Myricaceae, Chevalier (1901) actually recognized the same generic groupings that are currently being adopted. However, Chevalier in effect typified the Linnean genus by *Myrica cerifera* L. instead of by *Myrica gale* and as a consequence the largest cluster of species was treated as the genus *Myrica* instead of forming the genus *Morella*. The lectotype of the genus *Myrica*, as noted in the first paragraph, is *Myrica gale*, designated in Britton and Brown (1913: 584). This is the only species native to Sweden and the only species familiar to Linnaeus in its natural setting. Consequently, *Myrica gale* was the species best known to Linnaeus and a fitting lectotype for the genus. Killick et al. (1998) have recently transferred the African representatives from *Myrica* to *Morella* and Parra-Osorio is currently preparing a manuscript transferring the South American representatives to *Morella*. Wilbur (1994) dealt with the North American representatives of *Comptonia*, *Morella*, and *Myrica* and concurred with the unpublished dissertation by Baird (1968). Verdcourt and Polhill's proposals (1997) to conserve the generic names *Myrica* and *Gale* with the conserved types *Myrica cerifera* and *Gale belgica* Dumort, were rejected by the Committee for Spermatophyta as reported by Brummitt (1999), a conclusion that was approved by the most recent Botanical Congress.

Mexico and Central America:

- 1) **Morella phanerodonta** (Standl.) Wilbur, *comb. nov.*; Basionym: *Myrica phanerodonta* Standl., J. Wash. Acad. Sci. 17: 164. 1927.
- 2) **Morella pringlei** (Greenm.) Wilbur, *comb. nov.*; Basionym: *Myrica pringlei* Greenm., Proc. Amer. Acad. Arts 41: 236. 1905.
- 3) **Morella pubescens** (Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd.) Wilbur, *comb. nov.*; Basionym: *Myrica pubescens* Humb. & Bonpl. ex Willd., Sp. Pl. 4: 746. 1806.

West Indies:

- 4) **Morella holdridgeana** (Lundell) Wilbur, *comb. nov.*; Basionym: *Myrica holdridgeana* Lundell, Contr. Univ. Michigan Herb. 7: 5. 1942.

- 5) **Morella picardae** (Krug & Urb.) Wilbur, *comb. nov.*; Basionym: *Myrica picardae* Krug & Urb., Bot. Jahrb. Syst. 15: 359. 1892.

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